

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, July 12, 2001

The House met at 10 a.m.

Rabbi Solomon Schiff, Director, Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Miami, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Creator, we ask for Thy blessings upon the Members of this sanctified chamber who have accepted the sacred responsibility to serve with partiality to none and compassion to all. May their deliberations be guided by wisdom, purpose, and dedication.

Bless, we pray, our Nation. Thou has created this land as a haven of hope for the tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free. From the raw elements of justice, liberty, and equality, Thou has created here Heaven on Earth. May we ever remain worthy of this precious gift.

May this Nation serve as an inspiring beacon, whose light will dispel the darkness of despair and will guide the ship of mankind safely home to the port of peace. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 174. Concurrent resolution authorizing the Rotunda of the Capitol to be used on July 26, 2001, for a ceremony to present Congressional Gold Medals to the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers.

WELCOMING RABBI SOLOMON SCHIFF, DIRECTOR, GREATER MIAMI JEWISH FEDERATION, MIAMI, FLORIDA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am so very pleased to introduce my congressional constituent, Rabbi Solomon Schiff, of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, who led us in our opening prayer today.

I am proud to have a spiritual leader from Miami chosen for this special opportunity, and I thank Rabbi Schiff for sharing his compassionate prayer of hope and peace with our colleagues.

Within the south Florida community, Rabbi Schiff is well-known for his many acts of kindness and charity. In addition to his many duties, he finds time to serve as a member of the Governor's Commission on Aging with Dignity, as well as the People United to Lead the Struggle for Equality, an African American clergy group.

Rabbi Schiff is currently the executive vice president of the Rabbinical Association of Greater Miami, a position he has held since 1964. He is the longest-serving executive of any board of rabbis.

Additionally, he has served as the President of the Florida Chaplains Association and the South Florida Chaplains Association, and was recently elected as President of the National Association of Jewish Chaplains.

Rabbi Schiff is married to the former Shirley Miller, and they have three sons, Elliott, Jeffrey and Steven, as well as seven grandchildren.

Rabbi Schiff is an exemplary man of faith, and all of us in south Florida share tremendous pride that he is here with us today.

Welcome, Solomon Schiff, the rabbi of our community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The Chair will entertain 10 one-minute speeches per side.

SUPPORT ENERGY SECURITY ACT TO MEET ENERGY NEEDS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, due to recent current events, I do not think anyone can deny nor can anyone argue that this country needs more energy. Every estimate I have seen points to a sharp rise in our Nation's energy demands over the next 20 years. The demand for electricity, for example, is expected to rise 45 percent, according to the DOE, and the demand for natural gas will be even greater. It is expected to rise 62 percent by the year 2020.

Now, everyone knows that conservation can take the edge off that demand, and, in fact, the Republican energy package offers a framework for energy conservation that we have long needed. But, as Californians know quite well, even the best conservation efforts will not solve this problem. They are experiencing about a 15 percent gain in that demand due to conservation. That still leaves us about 40 to 50 percent short, and, without new energy supplies, more businesses, more hospitals, and more homes are going to go dark unnecessarily. We need to produce more energy.

Therefore, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 2436 the Energy Security Act, which provides a multifaceted energy package.

ALLOW UP OR DOWN VOTE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. CARDIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today was the day that we were supposed to debate at long last campaign finance reform. The public understands that if we are to pass campaign finance reform, it will be embodied in the principles of McCain-Feingold or Shays-Meehan. But, unfortunately, the Committee on Rules is recommending a rule that will make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for this body to have an up-or-down vote on the McCain-Feingold/